considered the question of formulating schemes for the common NRIs for productive investments of their earnings contributing to the rural development, if so, what steps are contemplated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Separate data on remittances made by rural and semi-urban NRIs is not maintained at present. However the outstanding balances in the Non-Resident (External) Rupee Accounts and Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts of Non-Resident Indians as a whole at the end of December, 1986 were Rs. 7470.62 crores.

(b) All the Investment Facilities available to Resident Indians are also available to Non-Resident Indians on the return to the country for permanent settlement.

(c) Does not arise.

Administartion at Block and district levels

2083. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2609 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1987 and state:

(a) what has been the reaction of the State Governments to the Report of the Committee on Administrative Arrangements for Rural Development; and

(b) what further steps Government propose to take in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Till now comments of 28 States/Union Territories on the Report have been received. There has been a mixed reaction of States and Union Territories on the recommendations contained in this Report as revealed by the comments received.

(b) The matter has to be placed before the National Development Council for further consideration.

Central assistance to West Bengal

2084. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether controversies persist in respect of the quantum of Central assistance to West Bengal as announced by the Prime Minister last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for such controversies; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to end the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The package announced by the Prime Minister for West Bengal last year included clearances, some of which also involved Central assistance. Controversies regarding quantum of Central assistance West Bengal have not come to our notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Terms and conditions of aid package by Aid India Consortium

2985. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of aid package for India agreed to by Aid India Consortium;

(b) whether there has been any change in the terms and conditions of Aid during 1987-88; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The total aid pledges indicated for 1987-88 at the recent Consortium meeting were of the order of U.S. $ 5.4 billion. Some member countries like Denmark, Canada and Japan indicated improvement in their respective terms of aid.